

WASHINGTON (October 2) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) and 47 House colleagues today sent a letter to President Obama opposing any reduction in patrol agents along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Concerned about reports of potential funding cuts, Bachus spearheaded a bipartisan letter to the President requesting a full allocation of agents along the southern border for the new federal fiscal year that began yesterday.

Every member of the Alabama House delegation signed the letter, as well as Republican Leader John Boehner, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith, and Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Peter King.

"Now is not the time to reduce the number of agents protecting the United States along the border with Mexico. We are concerned about this crisis and are willing to work with you to ensure that the Border Patrol has the workforce necessary to accomplish its mission, including reducing border violence and stopping the flow of illegal immigrants," the letter said.

Agents are facing increasing challenges along the 1,954-long border, only 697 miles of which are under effective control according Department of Homeland Security testimony. Drug violence along the border has intensified in recent months. Border Agent Robert Rosas was murdered in July while tracking illegal immigrants near the border, and the University of Texas at Brownsville shut down for three days after bullets from a shootout in Mexico struck its buildings.

Bachus, who has personally inspected conditions along the southern border, said a fully staffed patrol is essential for the safety of agents and the security of the country.

"The U.S. must secure its borders. Without strong enforcement, we will only see more violence

and illegal immigration. Our border agents perform vital and dangerous work. We have a responsibility to make sure that the Border Patrol has the agents and resources it needs to effectively police the U.S.-Mexico line," said Bachus.